



WEEK
THREE
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Consider the wisdom and guidance the Holy Spirit has given you over the years. Thank God for giving you everything you need to make wise decisions. Ask God to equip the kids in your group to stop and think first, so they're able to do and say what's best.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You'd Better Think

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Warmly welcome each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Lead the group in a game of "Simon Says."
- Call out a motion and model each motion you call out.
- Instruct the kids only to do the motion if you say "Simon Says" before the motion.
- Here are some suggestions for motions:
 - Pat your head.
 - Rub your tummy.
 - Touch your nose.
 - Touch your toes.
 - Turn around.
 - Touch the ground.
 - Reach high.
- After a few rounds for fun, add a challenge by modeling a *different* motion than the one you call out, saying "Simon says" before it.
 - Encourage the kids to THINK before they ACT!
- For an added challenge, gradually increase the pace—keep it light and silly.
- If time allows, invite kids to be Simon and choose new motions as they lead.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you act.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.

2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Rolls of toilet paper, and device for playing upbeat gameshow-style music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get into teams of two or three.
- Give one kid from each team a roll of toilet paper.
- When you start the music, direct the kid on each team holding the roll of toilet paper to spin it around the other kid(s) on their team—wrapping their team until you stop the music.
 - Help each kid peel their toilet paper end, as needed.
 - Demonstrate how one (or two) kid(s) can hold one end of the toilet paper roll while the other kid rotates around them.
- Start the music to cue the kids to begin the game.
- If time allows, instruct the kids to switch roles halfway through their toilet paper roll.
- Otherwise, stop the music once each team has used their entire roll.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was a wacky and fun way to use toilet paper! How did it feel to wrap up your friends? (*Invite responses.*) How did it feel to get all wrapped up? (*Invite responses.*) [**Transition**] Believe it or not, there's someone from our story today I think could have used some toilet paper. Let's go find out who!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



1. WHO WANTS TO BE KING?

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Who Wants to Be King?" and "Clue" Activity Pages, whiteboard, dry erase marker, and dry eraser; *Optional: device for playing game show music*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to sit together.
- Explain that you will lead the kids in a trivia-style game show:
 - You will take turns asking one team a question from today's Bible Story.
 - If a team answers correctly, they will be allowed to answer another question.
 - A team earns one point for every question they answer correctly.
 - Be sure to keep track of points on the whiteboard.
- Inform kids that each team only has **one** "Clue" card available to them.
 - If they are stuck and need help answering a question, they can hold up their "Clue" card.
 - If a team holds up their "Clue" card, narrow down the multiple-choice answers to just two options instead of all four.
 - Once a team has used their "Clue" card, they are not allowed to use it anymore.
- Pick one person from each team to play rock, paper, scissors to see which team goes first.
- *Optional: Start the game by playing game show music.*
- Read the team a question and the four choices from the "Who Wants to Be King?" Activity Page.
- Encourage the team to work together to choose their answer.
 - Remind kids if they need help to hold up their "Clue" card.
- After the team answers, ask, "Final answer?" to make sure they're sure about submitting their answer.
 - If the team's answer is correct, give them a point and read them the next question.
 - *Optional: Play an applause sound effect.*
 - If the team's answer is incorrect, give the other team a chance to answer for double the points.
- Continue in this way until all the questions have been answered.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job working together and earning points for your team! Even though King Saul was still his enemy, David had peace knowing he had chosen to stop and trust God instead of getting back at King Saul.

"You can show self-control when you stop to think first—and ask God to help you do what's best. When someone messes up your game, you can **think before you act**. When someone pushes you at recess, you can **think before you act**. When someone says something mean to you, you can **think before you act**. So remember: **think before you act.**"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



*2. THINK BEFORE YOU ACT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask: "What are some ideas of what you can do when you need to stop and think before you act?"
- Lead kids in a variation of "Bop It!" by first teaching them the following motions:
 - Pray. (*Clasp hands together*)
 - Count to 10. (*Count to 10 aloud as you count using your fingers.*)
 - Breathe. (*Hold arms in a circle over your head like a giant balloon. Breathe in and expand the "balloon," then breathe out and shrink the "balloon."*)
 - Hug a stuffed animal. (*Pantomime clutching a stuffed animal to your chest.*)
 - Walk it off. (*March in place.*)
 - Look at Jesus' example. (*Look through heart-shaped hands*)
- Once kids are familiar with the motions, randomly call out each idea, cueing kids to do each motion.
 - Start by using just two different ideas at a time, adding more as kids master them.
- As you continue to play the game, quicken your pace to keep interest high!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are lots of times you'll need to show self-control and **think before you act**—someone might break your favorite toy, a kid on the playground might knock you down, someone might say something mean to you, or your brother or sister might drive you crazy! Can you think of another time you may need to show self-control and **think before you act**? (*Invite responses.*)"

"When those times come, remember to **think before you act**. What are the motions we learned to help us? (*Review each one. Save "Look at Jesus' example" for last.*) Jesus had all the power in the world! But He chose not to get back at His enemies, even though He could have done it right then and there.

"So **think before you act**. And remember that you don't have to do it on your own. When you follow Jesus, God can give you the power to show self-control!"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



3. RELY ON GOD

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible (marked at 2 Peter 1), "Memory Verse" Activity Page, fabric scraps, scissors, and glue; *Optional: stickers*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Memory Verse" Activity Page.
- Choose a kid to open the Bible where marked.
- Guide the kids to point to each word on their "Memory Verse" Activity Page as you read the verse aloud.
- Lead everyone to say the verse together.
- Set out the fabric scraps, scissors, and glue.
- Invite kids to cut and glue pieces of fabric to their "Memory Verse" Activity Page as they choose.
 - Help kids cut with the scissors, as needed.
- *Optional: If using stickers, set them out for kids to decorate their "Memory Verse" Activity Pages with.*
- As kids work, ask them to share what colors/designs they're choosing.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"In our story today, David could have hurt Saul, but he trusted God and made the wise choice to think before he acted. Our Memory Verse tells us that when we follow Jesus, God's power can help us show self-control too!

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when God gave you the power to think before you acted. You may have held your tongue when someone said something mean to you, chose to walk away when you wanted to fight, or took a deep breath when someone cut you off.)

"Remember to **think before you act**. And even more importantly, remember that God's power can help you show self-control."

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Fabric scraps

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a fabric scrap.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into

prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Do these fabric scraps remind you of anything from our story today? (*Invite responses, like: These are similar to the fabric David cut from Saul’s robe.*) When Saul entered the cave where David and his men were hiding, David could have hurt Saul—he could have even killed him! But instead, David chose to stop and think before he acted. David remembered that God had a plan, and he chose to trust that God’s way was better! You can show self-control when you stop to think first—and ask God to help you do what’s best. Let’s do that now.

“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH that when we follow Jesus, You give us YOUR power to do what’s best. Help us remember to **think before you act**. Thank You so much for Your love, Your help, and Your power to help us do what’s best. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show them their “Memory Verse” Activity Page and review the verse.

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Rolls of toilet paper, one for every two or three kids
- Device for playing upbeat gameshow-style music, one for each Small Group

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. WHO WANTS TO BE KING? [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Who Wants to Be King?" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Print "Clue" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Whiteboard, one for each Small Group
- Dry erase marker, one for each Small Group

- Dry eraser, one for each Small Group
- *Optional:* Device for playing game show music

* 2. THINK BEFORE YOU ACT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

3. RELY ON GOD [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible (marked at 2 Peter 1 for kindergartners), one for each Small Group
- Print "Memory Verse" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Fabric scraps, a few pieces for each kid
- Scissors (be sure the scissors can cut your fabric), one pair for each kid
- Glue, enough for each Small Group to share
- *Optional:* Stickers in a variety of colors and designs, enough for each Small Group to share

4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Fabric scraps, one for each kid

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**